



## Kanata Minor Hockey Association

*Creating a Stronger Community Through Minor Hockey*



My name is Mark De Verno and I'm honoured to be coaching the 2018-2019 Major Novice Rep B team. I'd like to take the opportunity to welcome your player to their first season of competitive hockey!

### Philosophy

Coaching and teaching have been a significant part of my life. I've had the privilege to have been a head coach for the last three years with KMHA. Prior to this, I've taught children overseas for 5 years in Japan, as well as, karate to students of all ages. I believe in teaching by encouragement and positive reinforcement. I follow Hockey Canada's guidelines for age appropriate skills, as well as, their Long-Term Development plan for athletes.

As such, practices will be focused around developing players individual skills. I'm a firm believer in mastering skill foundations. Rather than systems, or set plays, I will instead help foster creativity by teaching four key concepts; time, space, speed, and support. All practices aim to be challenging and fun!

Players are expected to show great respect for everyone involved at with the game; teammates, opponents, referees, coaches, and parents. They are also expected to work hard, be a good teammate, and have a positive attitude.

### Season Plan

The commitment will be 4-5 times per week including games, practices and dryland. Attendance is mandatory to the best of the ability of the family.

We'll be attending 4 tournaments, 2 local and 2 away:

- October (26-28) – Capital Volunteer Cup (Richcraft Sensplex)
- November (30-Dec 2) – Northumberland Silver Stick
- December (14-16) – Ottawa Senators Holiday Classic (Bell Sensplex)
- One more tournament TBD

Families can expect additional team fees of approximately \$1000-1300 depending on the level of fundraising and sponsorships we achieve. These fees do not include registration or try out fees.

### Tryouts

Players are expected to be competing for a spot from the outset. There will be a team of 4 or more independent evaluators to help select the team. As this will be your child's first year in competitive, we'll

be looking at long term development. I'm looking for players who are coachable, respectful, driven to compete. Skill wise, I'm primarily looking for strong skaters, followed by their ability to handle the puck.

Tryout dates are TBD but are expected to be around the end of August. Please check the website ([www.kmha.ca](http://www.kmha.ca)) for details.

Players born in 2011 **are** eligible for tryouts but have an altered process. There will be a preliminary tryout in which a select few will be invited to the formal tryouts.

I'm happy to answer any questions and can be contacted at [mdeverno@hotmail.com](mailto:mdeverno@hotmail.com).

Have a great summer and keep your stick on the ice!

Mark De Verno  
Head Coach  
Major Novice B  
Kanata Blazers

